

"DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF THE ROAD"



**ABATE of Michigan, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 309 - Milford, Mi. 48381-0309

To: House Transportation Committee  
From: Vince Consiglio, President, ABATE of Michigan  
RE: HB 4608

Dear Representatives,

My name is Vince Consiglio. I have been an avid motorcyclist for many years. I have ridden over 900,000 miles on motorcycles, mostly in Michigan. I am here to testify for adult choice. Every state around Michigan doesn't have a mandatory helmet law. Those surrounding states, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin have a lower fatality rate than Michigan per 100,000 registrations from 1994-2007 per NHSTA. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Why is that? The helmet law doesn't prevent an accident.

ABATE of Michigan has always stressed tougher motorcycle licensing, rider education, and motorcycle awareness as an alternative to the mandatory helmet law. ABATE has a history of supporting licensing and rider education. We forced the Secretary of State to adopt a standard licensing test across the state in the 1980's. We pushed for privatized testing in the 90's and the motorcycle safety fund currently pays for the administration of the privatized 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing. 5 times ABATE has worked to pass legislation to keep the current public rider education program funded by motorcyclists. ABATE pays for an awareness program that is put on by our members. We believe that car drivers **SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF MOTORCYCLISTS**. "Let those Who Ride Decide" means let the adult rider make their choice on protective gear. Leather jackets, helmets, or boots, this is America and Americans are dying every day fighting for freedom. Give Michigan riders over the age of 21 years old, who have ridden for 2 years and have a cycle endorsement, the right to decide just like in 30 other states. Any questions? Thank You for the opportunity to state our case.

Vince Consiglio